



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 303

January Session, 2005

Substitute Senate Bill No. 866

Senate, April 13, 2005

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FARM TRANSFER AND FARM SUCCESSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is established,
2 within the Department of Agriculture, a Connecticut Farm Link
3 Program to establish a database of farmers and agricultural land
4 owners who intend to sell their farm operations or agricultural land.
5 The database shall be maintained by the Department of Agriculture
6 and shall be made available to the public on the department's web site.
7 Persons interested in starting an agricultural business or persons
8 interested in expanding a current agricultural business may notify the
9 department and have their names, contact information and intentions
10 regarding such businesses placed on the web site. The department
11 shall make reasonable efforts to facilitate contact between parties with
12 similar interests.
- 13 (b) The Department of Agriculture shall post educational materials
14 regarding the Connecticut Farm Link Program on the department's

15 web site, including, but not limited to, information regarding farm
16 transfer and farm succession planning, family farm estate planning,
17 farm transfer strategies, farm leasing, formation of farm partnerships
18 and information regarding starting a farm business.

19 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The sum of twenty-five thousand
20 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, from the
21 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to implement
22 the program established in section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Department of Agriculture	GF - Cost	25,000	10,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a CT Farm Link Program within the Department of Agriculture (DOAG) and appropriates \$25,000 to the department from the General Fund for the year ending June 30, 2006 to implement the program. At the current time, HB 6671 the Governor's recommended budget does not provide funds for this purpose.

It is anticipated that \$25,000 would enable the DOAG to hire a part-time employee to collect and input the data for the data base required for the program. Additional resources would be required for future years to maintain and update this program at least on a quarterly basis. These costs are estimated at approximately \$10,000 per year for ¼ of a marketing employee.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 866

AN ACT CONCERNING FARM TRANSFER AND FARM SUCCESSION**SUMMARY:**

The bill creates the Connecticut Farm Link Program within the Department of Agriculture. It is a database of farmers and agricultural landowners who intend to sell their farm operations or agricultural land. The department must maintain the database on its website. The bill (1) allows people interested in starting or expanding an agricultural business to notify the department and have their information (name, contact information, and business intentions) placed on the website and (2) requires the department to make reasonable efforts to facilitate contact between parties with similar interests.

It appropriates \$25,000 to the department for the program in FY 2006.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

CONNECTICUT FARM LINK PROGRAM***Educational Materials***

The Agriculture Department must post educational material about the program on its website. The material must include information about farm transfer and succession planning, family farm estate planning, farm transfer strategies, farm leasing, formation of farm partnerships, and starting a farm business.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0

